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## The "Life and Miracles" of Fisher Alumnus...

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## The "Life and Miracles" of Fisher Alumnus...

### Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"My name is Ken Shelton and I am 26 years old. I am a 1999 graduate from Spencer-Van Etten Jr./Sr. High School, of Spencer New York, and a 2003 graduate from St. John Fisher College, where I earned a BA in Religious Studies, with a minor in Philosophy."

## *The "Life and Miracles" of Fisher Alumnus...*

My name is Ken Shelton and I am 26 years old. I am a 1999 graduate from Spencer-Van Etten Jr./Sr. High School, of Spencer New York, and a 2003 graduate from St. John Fisher College, where I earned a BA in Religious Studies, with a minor in Philosophy.

Upon graduation, I returned home to Spencer only to rejoin my parents and family for 2 years. From May 2003 to January 2005 I was employed by Cayuga Press of Ithaca Inc., working as a printing bindery apprentice. After a short time, I was recognized by management and asked to join the sales team. It was within the rigors of this particular job where I learned the most about leadership and time management, as well as developed skills such as network marketing and advertising. But looking for more out life, looking for that deeper longing to be working for something greater, to making a difference in people's lives, and to being of greater service to others using my unique talents and gifts, I quickly realized a life of sales was not for me. So, on January 25, 2005 I honorably and faithfully swore an oath to protect and uphold The Constitution of the United States of America.

Currently I am an E-4, Senior Airman (three stripes), serving in the United States Air Force performing the duties of an Air Transportation Specialist. This career field includes, but is not limited to, anything from the coordinating of loading air cargo and freight, manifesting and loading passengers, fleeting various aircraft with expendable kits and pillows/blankets, and working in the Air Terminal Operations Control, which is the command and control function of all of those activities mentioned above.

Right now, I am stationed at Pope Air Force Base located in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Working in conjunction with the missions of the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Brigade and joint forces of the Army's Fort Bragg, I am tasked within the passenger service function, working at the Pope Passenger Terminal. My title: Passenger Service Agent. At this section, I perform anything from signing-up and reserving passengers for flights, checking in passengers and weighing their bags, gating them and even bussing them to the aircraft. My day is much like that of a passenger service agent employed at USAir or any other airline.

As far as outside of my military duties, I currently reside at a small rental house just off base in the township of Spring Lake, where I enjoy hobbies such as golfing, reading, and running. I am also active both on and off base. On base I am involved with many of the Catholic Chapel ministries where I lector and cantor for the Catholic Masses, assist in leading Catholic Youth Organization activities, and remain a member-at-large on the Parish Council Committee. I also help conduct our squadron (3 Aerial Port Squadron) physical training program, as well as participate in squadron booster club events helping to raise funds for future squadron activities. Off base, I frequently volunteer for a unique radio-reading service at Fayetteville State University, where I help those blind individuals within the surrounding community by reading the daily local newspapers via radio communication. All of my on and off base activities provide truly rewarding experiences and opportunities to meet motivating people.

There is not a day that goes by where I do not use some skill I previously acquired. From Fisher, to my degree, to my printing experience, to my military encounter, each choice has brought rewarding knowledge and personal growth. I have won Airman of the Quarter for my squadron, even Airman of the Year, gained rank below-the-zone, and even met the President of the United States; all of which are great things. But if I have learned one thing from my decision to join the United States Air Force, it is the notion that life is not only about our selves, but it is also about the welfare of others. This is why I have never forgotten Fisher, my friends, my teachers, and what they gave me to succeed where I am right now in the military. Our degrees are not only for us and for our betterment, but also for others and their betterment. With gaining our degrees comes a responsibility to be leaders; and as for having a religious studies degree, it challenges our inner core moving us do brave things and to always be seekers of that greater Knowledge which is beyond us. My future hopes: possibly cross-training, gaining a master's degree, a PHD, doing some ministry, or maybe teaching. All I know, is that I am excited about what is next and where my adventures might lead me.

Good luck to you all in your future endeavors, wherever they may lead you. Please listen to your intuition. Please go with the flow of life, and please keep me in your prayers as I go with courage this Summer to the Middle East to serve in my first deployment to the War. Much peace and many blessings.



*Ken Shelton*